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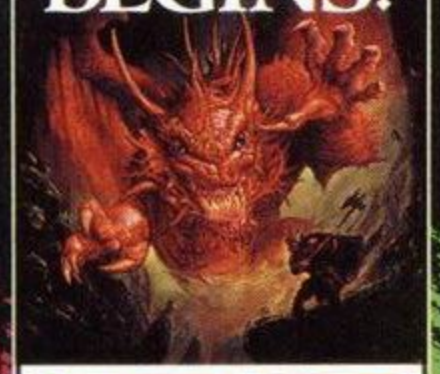
NOMAD™

HIDDEN IN VIEW PART III

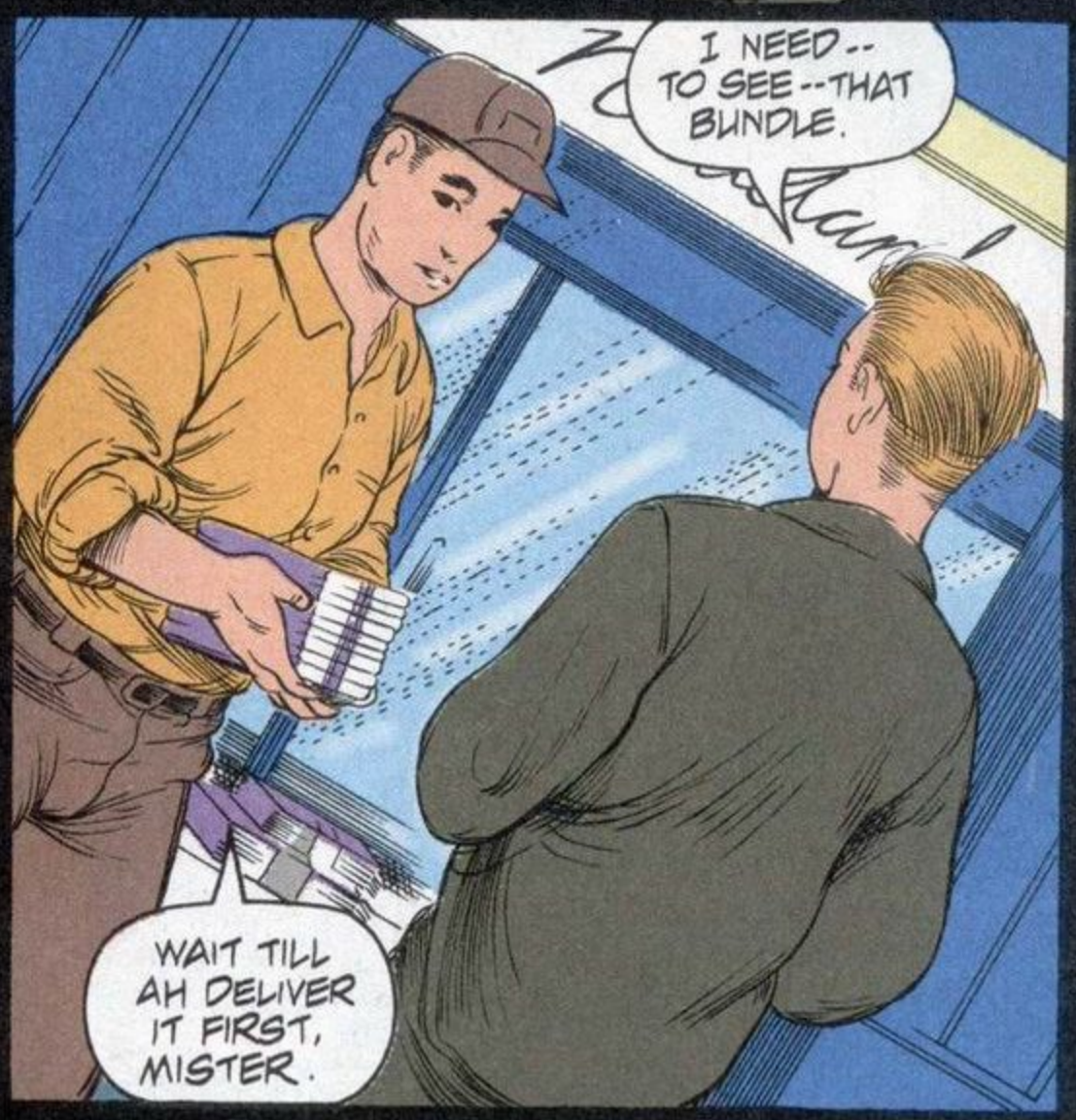
OUT ABOUT

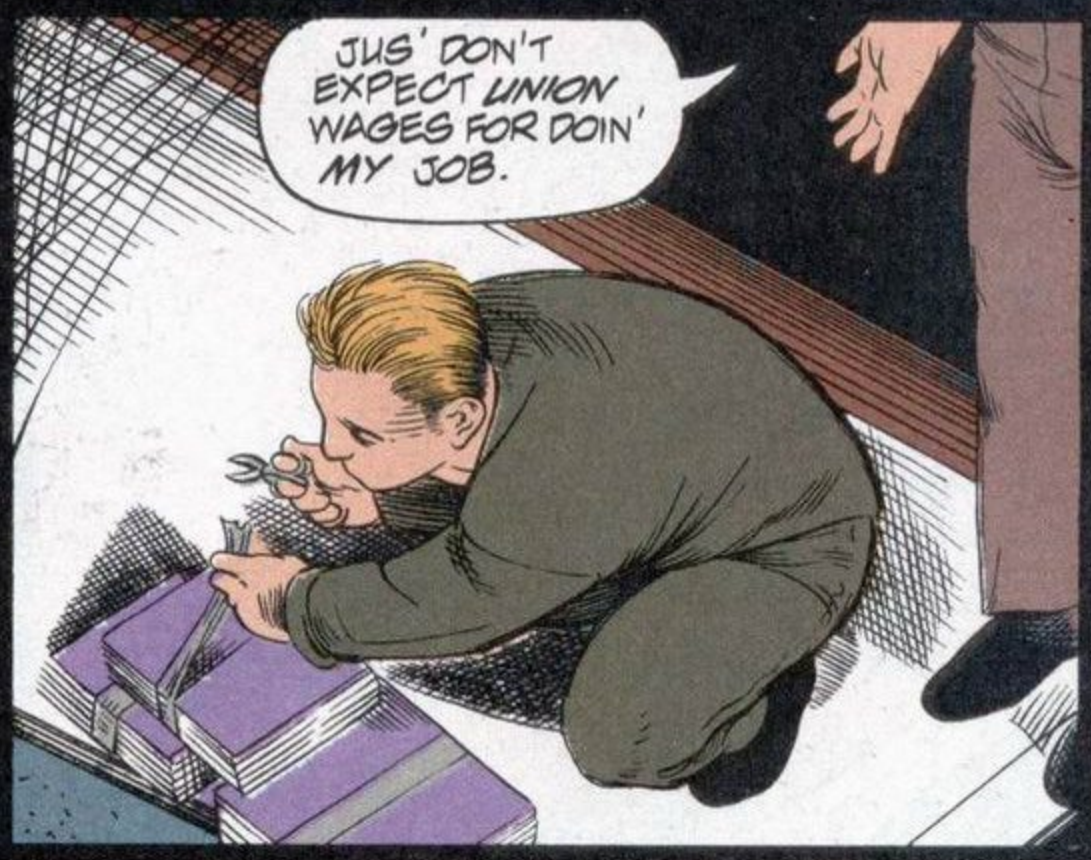
BLOOD RELATIONS

THE HUNT BEGINS!



DRAGON MONTH
MAY 93





HIDDEN IN VIEW
Part Three

"From The Outside Looking In"

By

Fabian Nicieza

Rick Mays

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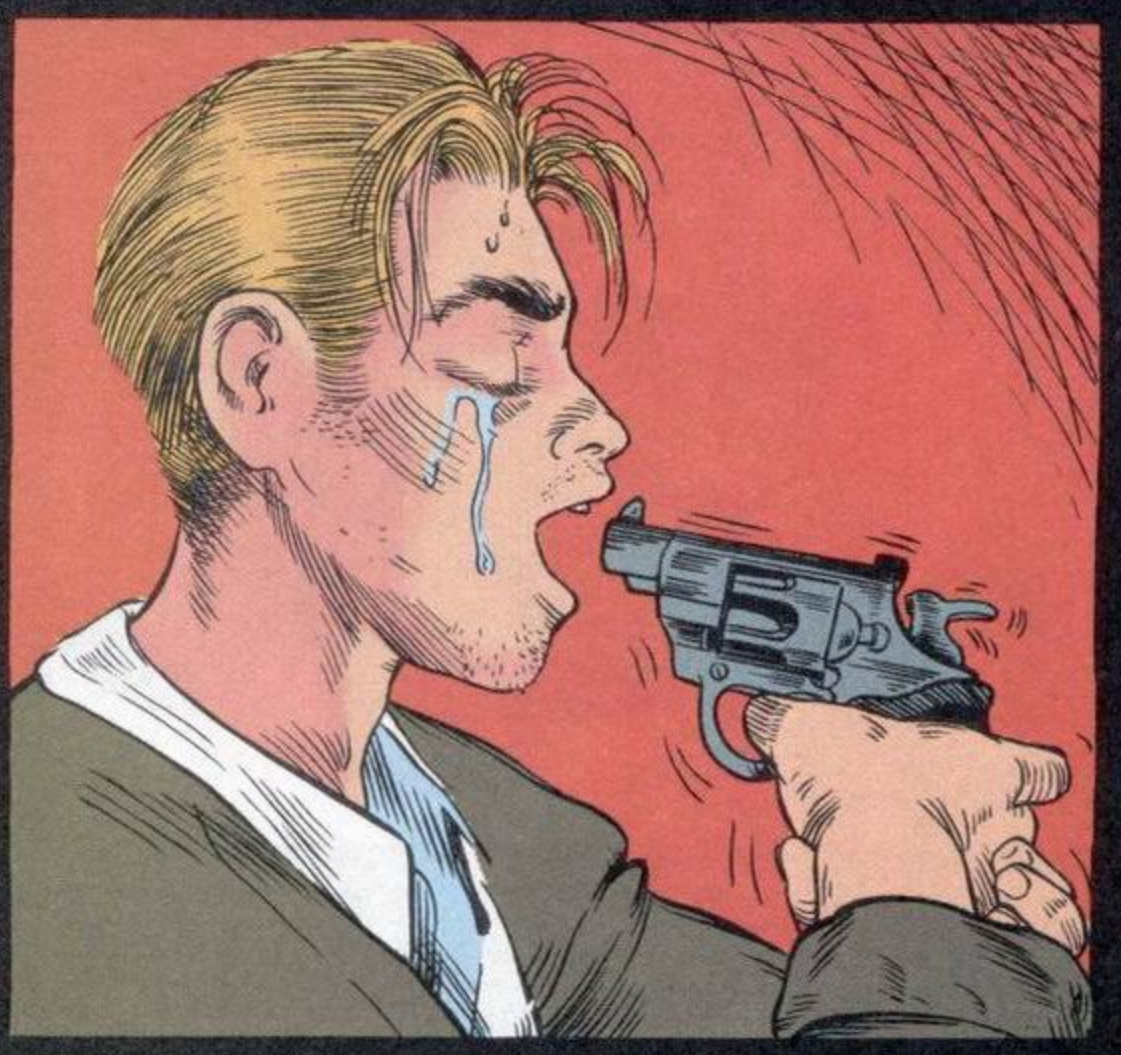

Jack Monroe. A failed super soldier. A fallen super hero. Wandering the highways and byways of this vast land, Monroe tries to discover himself, by discovering America.

Stan Lee presents **NOMAD**

BLAM OUT And ABOUT

ISSUE 23
APRIL
3.50 US
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KERRY WARSHAW—
C'MON OUT!!
VEEP AT HOUSTON FIDELITY TRUST—
NOT IN THE CLOSET ANYMORE!!

I COULD MAKE A COMMENT ABOUT HOW IRONIC IT IS.

PEOPLE ON THE *INSIDE* TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE LIKE ME ON THE *OUTS*.

AND PEOPLE ON THE *OUTSIDE*, LIKE ME, ALWAYS TRYING TO GET *IN*.

THE HOUSE BELONGS TO *TEXAS SENATOR HUGH GREIDER*.

BEEN RE-ELECTED SO MANY TIMES THEY SAY THE *NEXT* AMENDMENT HE VOTES ON WILL BE HIS *ELEVENTH*.

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN-- THE SECURITY SYSTEMS THIS PLACE HAS SET UP DON'T HAVE ANY *COBWEBS* ON THEM.

I VAULT OVER THE INFRA-RED WALL BEAMS. QUIET.

BUCKY KNOWS WE'RE ON B&E, SO SHE KEEPS MUM, TOO.

SHE'S A *PRO*. I SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT HER.

IT'S JUST TOUGH TO PREPARE WHEN YOUR PARTNER MAY UP AND START CRYING 'CAUSE SHE SOILED HER *DIAPERS*.

WHAT A WAY TO EARN A PAYCHECK, HUH?

LET'S GO MAKE A DOWNPAYMENT ON THOSE BRACES YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IN TEN YEARS.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE--!

SO MUCH FOR DOING THIS NICE AND QUIET.

RENT-A-COPS. YOU *GOTTA* LOVE THEM.

WAK

FOR SOME CRAZY REASON, THEY'RE JUST *NEVER* READY FOR A *SUPER-SOLDIER* WHO WAS TRAINED BY *CAPTAIN AMERICA*.

SHAKK

GO FIGURE.

FREEZE!

NOT AS GOOD AS YOU THOUGHT, HUH, BUDDY?

NO. BETTER.

PUFT PUFT PUFT PUFT

THERE GOES THE PAINT JOB ON THE BMWS.

SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET PINK-SLIPPED FOR *THAT* ONE.

CHUKT

OW! OW!!

FWOOG

PUFT PUFT PUFT

COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THAT EASY, COULD IT?

FLIKKT

NO. *THIS* KIND OF GUY IS SO PARANOID, HE'S *GOT* TO BE KEEPING THE BEST HE'S GOT FOR LAST.

KEEPS THEM CLOSE. MAKES HIM FEEL *SAFER*.

THWAKK

THWAKK

THUNK

THERE. THAT'S WHAT I CAN DO.

NOW TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

SO MUCH FOR THAT SECURE FEELING, HUH, SENATOR?

IT'S 'BOUT THIS, MR. MONROE.

OUT AND ABOUT

AH WANNA STOP THESE ANIMALS FROM SLANDERIN' MY SON.

YOUR SON IS GAY?

HE IS-- AND AH DON'T REALLY CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

HE'S A GOOD YOUNG MAN AND AH'M PROUD OF HIM--

--BUT HE DOESN'T WANT THIS MAGAZINE DRAGGIN' HIM OUT OF THE CLOSET.

SO YOU PUT WORD OUT AMONG THE UNDER-GROUNDERS--

--TO FIND SOMEONE WHO COULD... CONVINCE... THE MAGAZINE'S PUBLISHERS TO STOP THE WITCH HUNT?

AND YOU'VE SHOWN ME YOU'RE THE MAN AH NEED, MR. MONROE.

THE PAY IS GOOD, THE JOB DISCREET.

AH KNOW WHO YOU ARE. AH KNOW WHAT HAPPENED IN ALASKA.

YOUR TROUBLES WITH THE GOV'NMENT-- THAT WON'T COME BE-TWEEN US.

FAIR ENOUGH. THE JOB'LL BE DONE IN A WEEK. CASH. HALF UP FRONT, HALF UPON COMPLETION.

AGREED. BUT YOU ONLY HAVE TWO DAYS.

TWO DAYS... IT IS... THEN...

HOPE YOUR BOYS CAN WASH THE PAINT PELLETS OUT OF THEIR UNIFORMS.

A DRUG REHABILITATION OUTSIDE OF MARSEILLES, FRANCE...

I'M READY, M'SIEU EPURER.

ARE YOU CERTAIN NOW?

WOULD YOU CARE TO CELEBRATE YOUR PROGRESS UNDER MY TUTELAGE WITH A LITTLE HIGH?

FWIPP

THUNK

AAAK--

I WANT MY DAUGHTER BACK GISCARD!

I WANT HER BACK NOW!

SINCE THIS JOB'S A QUICKIE, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THE SET-UP.

I SPEND ALL NIGHT AT THE COLLEGE LIBRARY READING ABOUT THE SENATOR'S HISTORY.

NOW THAT IT'S MORNING, I HIT THE PUBLISHERS OF *OUT AND ABOUT*.

CHEAP OFFICES FOR A CHEAP RAG.

3A

AND ABOUT

--SO THEY MAKE ALL THEIR MONEY STRINGING THEIR STORIES OUT TO THE *TABLOIDS* FOR EXTRA CASH.

BEM

CAN I HELP YOU?

AMERICAN JOURNALISM AT ITS *FINEST*. NEXT YOU'LL HEAR THEY'RE FIXING CAR CRASHES ON NBC NEWS OR SOMETHING.

N

THEIR CIRCULATION IS LOW AND THEIR AD SELL-THROUGHS ARE ANEMIC--

THE PUBLISHER-- *ROBERT THALDRON*-- IS HE IN?

HE'S IN WITH A COUPLE OF DICKS FROM *HPD*.

BEM

HOUSTON POLICE? WHY?

AIN'TJA SEEN THE NEWS?

HOUSTON CHRONICAL

BANK VEEP COMMITS SUICIDE

WE'RE KINDA RESPONS'BLE-- AIN'T IT A *HOOT*?

YOU'RE-- *PROUD*-- THIS GUY KILLED HIMSELF?

I BEEN OUT AND ABOUT SINCE I WAS *FOURTEEN*, MISTER.

ONLY WAY F'R *MINORITIES* TO MAKE THEIR VOICES *HEARD* IS BY SINGIN' LOUD AN' CLEAR.

WE CAIN'T DO THAT IF PEOPLE DON'T JOIN THE *CHOIR*.

MR. THALDRON-- THIS IS MY NUMBER AT THE STATION--

--IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING, PLEASE GIVE ME A BUZZ.

THALDRON. COMES FROM MONEY. THIRTY-SIX.

THE KIND OF HOMOSEXUAL THE *FAR RIGHT* FEARS THE MOST-- A REGULAR BUSI-NESSMAN.

LIKE THE COMMIE SCARE. "THEY COULD BE YOUR NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR!"

CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU, MR. THALDRON?

YOU I KNOW WE DIDN'T OUT.

SO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WE DID--

--OR YOU KNOW SOMEONE WE'RE GOING TO.

WHICH IS IT, MR.--

GOING TO.

VERY WELL, MR. GOINGTO, COME ON IN.

YOU WERE HIRED BY SOMEONE, WEREN'T YOU?

I WAS.

SOMEONE WHO WOULD PREFER YOU NOT OUT THEIR SON.

A MAN OF PRESTIGE AND *POWER*, NO DOUBT?

A MAN WHO WOULD BE *HUMILIATED* IF THE DEEP, DARK, *HORRIBLE* TRUTH OF HIS SON'S LIFE WERE MADE PUBLIC?

ACTUALLY, THE SON IS THE ONE WHO WANTS YOU TO SIT ON THE STORY.

THE FATHER CLAIMS TO NOT CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER.

I'M SURE.

LOOK AT THE FILE WE'VE COMPILED, MR. GOINGTO.

AND *THEN* TELL ME WHY YOUR EMPLOYER, SENATOR GREIDER, DOESN'T WANT HIS SON OUTED IN MY MAGAZINE!

NOW DIDN'T *THIS* JUST GET *INCREDIBLY* INTERESTING...?

WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED SEEING WHAT GREIDER AND LITTLE *HENRY*, WHOM HE IS JUST *SO* PROUD OF, ARE *REALLY* AFRAID OF--

--THEN TELL ME WHY *YOU* WOULDN'T PUBLISH THE ARTICLE--MUCH LESS WHY *I* SHOULDN'T!

SLAM

ONE THING THE FILE TELLS ME IS SOMETHING I ALREADY KNEW-- THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS AN *EASY* PAYCHECK.

IT'S NIGHT AND I'M STAKING OUT HENRY GREIDER'S TOWNHOUSE DEVELOPMENT.

THREE HOURS OF WAITING UNTIL HENRY AND HIS DATE SHOW UP.

AS MUCH AS BUCKY HATES MISSING A STAKEOUT, I DIDN'T BRING HER ALONG.

SHE'S BEING WATCHED BY A FRIEND OF *DR. SOTO*, WHOM I MET IN DALLAS A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

IN FACT, ANY DAY NOW, I SHOULD BE RECEIVING BUCKY'S *TEST RESULTS* FROM SOTO--FIND OUT IF SHE'S *HIV*-POSITIVE.

THE THINGS A FATHER HAS TO WATCH OUT FOR NOWADAYS. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR "*DAUGHTER*" IS THE CHILD OF A *CRACK*-ADDICTED PROSTITUTE.

THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TIME FOR HENRY AND HIS FRIEND TO GET SETTLED IN.

NOW HERE'S SOMETHING I WASN'T READY FOR...

PURE PAIN

CLIK WHRRR

HUH--?

SOMEONE ELSE HERE BEFORE ME, WITH A PRETTY SPIFFY CAMERA SETUP, TOO.

THWAK

PURE PAIN

A GUN? THAT PROVES THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN MEETS THE EYE.

PURE PAIN

SOMETHING IN THE FILES THAT THALDRON GAVE ME...

... A NAME THAT RUNG A BELL...

... GARY BENNET IS HENRY'S COMPANION OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS...

... BENNET...

... THALDRON HAS PIECES OF A PUZZLE SPREAD OUT ACROSS THE TABLE, AND NOW I HAVE TO MAKE THEM FIT.

WHY WOULD OUT AND ABOUT SEND A ROOF-TOP PHOTOG? THEY DON'T NEED ANY MORE DIRT ON HENRY THAN THEY ALREADY HAVE.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE PEOPLE I'M INVOLVED WITH--

-- BESIDES MY INHERENT CYNICAL MISTRUST OF EVERYTHING THEY ARE, DO AND STAND FOR--

-- TELLS ME MORE AND MORE, THAT THIS ISN'T A FAMILY THING--

-- IT ISN'T EVEN A GAY THING--

--IT'S A POWER THING...

GREIDER'S MANSION, TWO HOURS LATER.

NORMALLY, I'D BE FINISHING UP *LETTERMAN* RIGHT ABOUT NOW, FINGER GLUED ON THE REMOTE LOOKING FOR "THE BEST OF CHER INFOMMERCIALS" ON ONE OF THE LOCAL CHANNELS.

MAN, WHEN LETTERMAN MOVES TO *CBS*, MY WHOLE SCHEDULE IS GOING TO BE *SHOT*.

INFRA-RED SCANNER BEAM ON THE DRIVE-WAY, SET TO BE TRIPPED BY A CAR TIRE OR A FOOT.

A REFLECTED SURFACE KEEPS THE BEAM SIGNAL RELAYING AS I SLIP PAST IT.

LEARNED THAT TRICK FROM A DRUG RUNNER IN MIAMI.

SOMETIMES, YOU'RE BETTER OFF HANGING OUT WITH THE BAD GUYS.

NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION, AND THE LOWLIFES ALWAYS NEED TO INVENT WAYS TO SURVIVE.

NOW THAT'S A SIGN THIS COUNTRY'S WORK ETHIC IS WASTED--THE *CRIMINALS* ARE THE ONES BUSTING THEIR HUMPS TO GET AHEAD IN THE WORLD!

AND *ME*? BREAKING INTO HOUSES AND BREAKING HEADS TO MAKE A LIVING!

AT LEAST, SINCE THIS ISN'T AN AUDITION, LIKE LAST NIGHT, GREIDER DOESN'T HAVE ANY *RENT-A-COPS* HANGING AROUND.

EVENIN', JACK. HOWZBAYOU, TONIGHT?

OKAY, FINE -- SO RENT-A-*MOUNTAIN* IS ON DUTY THIS FINE EVENING.

MMRRRF

THE BIGGER THEY ARE--

--THE MORE LIKELY I AM TO *DISLOCATE* MY SHOULDER WHEN I TACKLE THEM.

JACK, MAN -- HERE I WAS, THINKING WE WERE GOING T'HAVE A CHANCE T'TALK...

... AH WELL, *ACTIONS* SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS, ANYWAY!

PRRRRRAPPPT

PCHING

PCHING

PCHING

PCHING

DEFINITELY A FREELANCE SPECIALIST.

NO FULL-TIMER WOULD SHOOT UP THEIR BOSS'S HOUSE LIKE THIS. I MEAN, THERE GOES THE LENOX CRYSTALWARE.

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY NOT A GOOD SIGN FOR ME--

THWUMP

--SINCE THAT INDIFFERENCE WOULD RUN TOWARD NOT CARING IF HE STAINS THE CARPETING WITH MY BLOOD!

PRRAAAPPTT

FACHING

FACHING

FACHING

FACHING

FACHING

FACHING

FACHING

C'MOOON, JACKIE--STOP RUNNING AWAY!

GET A LITTLE MAD ON AND MAKE A PLAY FOR IT!

BE STRAIGHT FOWARD FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE!

STOP SNEAKING AROUND THROUGH LIFE, TAKING SHORTCUTS!!

KRASHK

SURE. STARTING TOMORROW.

WAS IT ME, OR WAS HE JUST TOO OBNOXIOUS -- TOO FAMILIAR -- FOR YOUR STANDARD KILLER SECURITY GUARD ?

STOP RIGHT THERE, MR. MONROE!

HUGH. HENRY... RELAX, OKAY ?

LET'S NOT TURN DEAR MRS. GREIDER INTO A CHILDLESS WIDOW.

DON'T YOU BE REACHIN' FOR A--

FILE ?

THE REAL REASON WHY NEITHER OF YOU WANT THALDRON TO FEATURE YOU IN OUT AND ABOUT.

IT'S NOT ABOUT EITHER OF YOU -- IT'S ABOUT GARY BENNET --

GARY IS THE SON OF **MILES BENNET**-- WHO JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE C.E.O. OF **CYBEROPTICS**--

--WHICH HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MAIN DESIGNERS OF **MILITARY SOFTWARE.**

MILES IS READY TO **TESTIFY** BEFORE A SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE--

--THAT A **SUPER-GUN PROGRAM** WHICH LINKS THE USER TO A COMPUTER TARGETING SYSTEM IS **NOT** READY FOR MASS PRODUCTION.

IF CONGRESS **DOESN'T** APPROVE FUNDING, SENATOR GREIDER LOSES A PORK BARREL CONTRACT--

--JOBS, MONEY AND PRESTIGE FOR THE LOCAL CONSTITUENTS-- ALL LOST BECAUSE OF A SILLY LITTLE THING LIKE THE **TRUTH** GETTING IN THE WAY.

YOU WERE GOING TO USE THESE PHOTOS OF HUGH AND GARY TO **BLACKMAIL** MILES INTO **CHANGING** HIS TESTIMONY.

IF **OUT AND ABOUT** RAN A FEATURE ON HUGH, IT WOULD'VE SHOT THE LOAD ON YOUR PLANS.

AND WHAT **NOW,** MR. MONROE?

MILES AND GARY BENNET *KNOW* ABOUT YOUR PLANS.

SO DOES THALDRON.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF *OUT AND ABOUT* *WON'T* HAVE A FEATURE ON HENRY.

IT WILL HAVE A FEATURE ON *GARY BENNET* AND HOW HE WAS BEING *SET UP* BY THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR.

OH LORD..

I DID WHAT YOU *ASKED* ME TO DO, SENATOR. I *STOPPED* THE MAGAZINE FROM RUNNING A FEATURE ON YOUR SON.

THE REST IS A BED OF YOUR *OWN* MAKING. SLEEP TIGHT.

HEY, DUDE-- YOU WERE PRETTY GOOD-- NO HARD FEELINGS?

NO, JACKIE-BOY-- NO HARD FEELINGS.

NO HARD FEELINGS AT ALL...

NEXT MONTH: *NOMAD'S GREATEST ENEMY--HIMSELF! AND WHAT'S WITH THIS GLOWING EYED GUY ANYWAY?*

ONE FOR THE ROAD

GLENN HERDLING: EDITOR — HECTOR COLLAZO: ROAD WORRIER

C/O MARVEL COMICS — 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH — NEW YORK, NEW YORK — 10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST!

Dear Sirs,

As an individual who came of age in the midst of the Punisher era, and thus an individual who left the realm of the crazed and gun-toting along with acne and counting chest hairs, I assumed that NOMAD was a standard black-clad, shotgun toting dispenser of justice--a good solid blood-fest, and cheap humor. I was sadly mistaken. Jack Monroe is one of the finest characters, in my opinion, that Marvel has spawned. He is sufficiently hardcore enough to draw the body-count readers, but is maintained as a full-fledged, well-rounded individual rather than a corpse factory. He is enough of an individual to draw other devoted comics fans (in particular, a reader of Flying-mammal Man) to consider him the best vigilante around. For this, I applaud you.

Now, on to business. I feel that Lawrence, Kansas is an ideal place for Nomad to set down for a while. It is near a good-sized metropolitan area (Kansas City), but has attempted to keep a college-town mentality (the University of Kansas is based there). Gang problems which have been visible throughout the U.S. are occurring here as well. The murder rate has jumped an unprecedented amount over the past three years, and the haves and have-nots are separated by a bridge between North Lawrence and South Lawrence. The town has more than its share of criminal elements as well as subculture/counterculture. I feel this a sufficiently diverse palette for NOMAD to be truly unusual.

Sean Demory
819 McCollum Hall
1800 Ensel Rd.
Lawrence, KS 66045

While Lawrence isn't exactly L.A., Sean, we'll take your suggestion for a visit under consideration. However, we do want to know why you think Lawrence is your typical college town? You make it seem like so much more!

Dear Glenn & Hector,

I wanted to write and tell you what an excellent comic you are turning out. I have been a Marvel Comics reader for over twenty years--so this is not just a fanboy, worship letter. I was very glad to see Fabian touch on two issues that are very important to me: animal rights and Native American rights. These were power-packed stories that paralleled my own beliefs. Keep the good stuff coming, Fabe! I also like the fact that each issue is a self-contained story, but part of a bigger story.

Now for some complaining! I know that these things are good for sales, and if they keep my favorite comic on the shelf each month, I shouldn't object. But I just don't care for the X-Punisher-Spider-Rider guest stars or the costly cover gimmicks. Also, the art in issue #11 was not up to previous standards. On that note, I reveal my true purpose of writing: GET S.CLARKE HAWBAKER BACK ON THIS BOOK!!! Do whatever it takes! Go bi-monthly, go to a split story book! Have him draw every second or third issue. Use the old Sal Buscema, no background art style. Anything! I demand Hawbaker! If he doesn't return, I will find out where you live, Herdling!

Bobby S. Tandy
430 Redding Rd. Apt. #2105
Lexington, KY 40517

Sorry, Bob, but Mr. Hawbaker could never commit to the hardships of a bi-monthly schedule, and the split-book format, although it works elsewhere, is not our style. We can tell you that Clarke will be filling in occasionally, and issue #11's penciler, Rick Mays, will be joining our NOMAD staff for more than the occasional fill-in. Despite your objections to his art in issue #11, we think he'll grow on you!

Dear Glenn and Hector,

I'm sure you'll get a bunch of negative letters regarding NOMAD #11's alternative lifestyle issue. This isn't one of them. When I saw Nomad in a dress, a true-blue Marvel super hero in a dress, and it wasn't a hoax, wasn't an imaginary story, wasn't an issue of WHAT THE?, I laughed so hard, I'm afraid my NOMAD issue #11 is no where near mint condition anymore. Sometimes reading NOMAD is like watching GERALDO, only NOMAD is more interesting, and I've never watched GERALDO. So forget I brought it up.

By the way, if my memory serves me correctly, Jack Monroe first appeared in CAPTAIN AMERICA #155 or so, which I reckon was around 1973. So shouldn't we be celebrating twenty years of Nomad? (Even though I was but a wee lad then, I do have thousands of old Marvels, and I'm fairly certain I've remembered correctly, but if not, then you can delete this part from print--to save me the embarrassment. On second thought, keep it in. If Nomad can wear a dress, then I can stand to be wrong.) Until Punisher wears a tutu... no, wait, until Wolverine paints his claws... no, uh... give me a minute, I'll think of something you wouldn't do! (P.S. Did you guys do much, ah, research for this issue?)

Mike Rose
P.O. Box 3295
Boston, MA 02101

Although Jack Monroe first appeared around twenty years ago, he was going by the name Bucky back then. Nomad, however, is barely upon his first decade, and since there are so many other "long-term" anniversaries (the AVENGERS and the X-MEN, for example) this year, we'll save our party for some other event! Lastly, concerning that pointed "research" question, Mike--we'd love to give you an answer, but the Comics Code Authority would only edit it out!!!

Dear Glenn,

I just had to write in response to NOMAD #11 in order to congratulate Fabian on a job well done. Talk about controversial subjects--the mere mention of transvestites is usually enough to put an inane smile on one's face. Yet Fabian's storyline in "Criss Cross" provided us with a thoughtful and unbiased insight into the lives of a group of individuals with an alternative lifestyle. The humor was neither disrespectful, nor at the expense of these individuals, but instead was aimed at Nomad's first-time experiences in an unfamiliar environment.

Even though I can't approve of, or begin to understand the needs of those individuals, this issue not only entertained as a good comic book should, but it showed these people for what they really are--human beings.

Peter Tong
21 Parkdale
Pointe-Claire, Quebec
CANADA H9R 3Y4

Thank you for your thoughtful support, Peter. Here's hoping we'll keep that "inane" smile on your face beyond issue #11!

NEXT ISSUE: "Hidden in View" comes to its thrilling conclusion when Nomad takes on that guy with the red eyes! But who is he, and why does he hate Jack so much? Be here as Nomad battles Captain America, the Falcon, Foolkiller, Dr. Faustus, Taskmaster, Bushwacker and Deadpool!